

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 31

asked on Tuesday, 9 February 2010

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DR ROBINSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to turtle deaths allegedly caused by the inverted crab dillies due to be banned in April 2010—

Will the Minister advise on the number of deaths caused by these specific crab dillies, as well as by other human related means, for the last five years (broken down annually) in both Moreton Bay and in Queensland as a whole?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to measures to improve the protection of marine life in Queensland.

In regards to turtle deaths a major measure contributing to the population turnaround for the Logger turtle has been the Queensland Government's push for the regulated use of turtle exclusion devices (TEDs).

TEDs act like a filter on trawling nets and allow the loggerheads and other turtles to escape the net's coverage. The regulated use of these devices in the trawl fisheries of eastern and northern Australia has been effective in reducing turtle deaths as bycatch.

The Moreton Bay zoning plan, opposed by the LNP, protects 16 per cent of the Bay as green zones. "Go slow" zones also assist in reducing the impacts on marine life, particularly boat strikes. I am advised that there 14% decrease in mortalities in the marine park last year.

In relation to inverted crab dillies, in 2009, 2008 and 2005 there were no reported incidents of turtles being killed, in either Moreton Bay or the rest of Queensland, by inverted dillie-type crab pots.

In 2007 there were two reports of turtles being captured by inverted dillie-type crab pots. Both of these reports came from within Moreton Bay.

In 2006 there was one report of a turtle drowning in an inverted dillie-type crab pot in Moreton Bay and none in the rest of Queensland.

This Government is committed to reducing turtle deaths across Queensland.